

Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 1036, and I, furthermore, ask for its immediate consideration by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is advised that under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I understand the Speaker's ruling, but nevertheless, I wish the United States of America a very happy birthday.

INVESTING IN OUR NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

(Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act. This infrastructure bill invests in our roads, bridges, transit systems, schools, housing, clean water systems, and so much more.

Importantly, it will create good-paying jobs, repair critical infrastructure, address the climate crisis, and create healthier and safer communities. I am proud that this bill includes key provisions that I championed in Congress, including repairing our natural gas pipelines to prevent methane leaks, investing in our public buildings to make them more energy efficient, and incentivizing our Nation's ports to reduce harmful emissions. These investments are a down payment on our Nation's future, and they will, indeed, help us move America forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of H.R. 2.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF USMCA IN WASHINGTON

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement going into effect today and to recognize the important role this critical trade agreement play for my district in central Washington.

In 2019, Washington State exports to Canada and Mexico totaled \$11.1 billion. Now, due to the challenges of the pandemic on our economy, the USMCA is more vital than ever to provide freer markets, fairer trade, and more economic opportunity in Washington.

This modernized trade agreement will promote the potential for small businesses to aid in the growth and recovery of our State's economy, and it will provide for expansion of equitable trade opportunities for many of central Washington's farmers and ranchers.

The implementation of the USMCA comes at a crucial time for the American economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have supported this trade agreement on behalf of people in central Washington, particularly knowing that my constituents will benefit at a time when they need it most.

SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FOR AMERICA

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, the House will vote to approve a \$1.5 trillion transportation and infrastructure bill.

This American nation-building program will be the largest in American history. The Public Works Administration of 1930s spent nearly \$700 billion in today's dollars. This building program will more than double that investment, creating millions of jobs in the construction trades, jobs in the supply and materials industry, and jobs in the engineering and design industries as well.

The program is good for economic growth at a time when our Nation is desperate for economic growth. For every dollar invested in infrastructure, that investment returns \$1.80, or an 80 percent return on investment, to the United States economy.

The President and both political parties have promised a robust infrastructure investment. Now is the time to reconcile that rhetoric with action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge approval of this bill.

HIGHLIGHTING COVID-19 DEATH STATISTICS

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have heard several speeches this morning about the COVID epidemic.

Like a lot of Americans, every day, I like to get up and see whether we are moving in the right direction or not. I was sad to see this morning—I checked the Worldometer's website because a lot of my constituents tell me that is the one to check, and I was sad to see that, this morning, when they gave the number of deaths yesterday, on Tuesday, they list 764 Americans who had passed away.

However, the Worldometer website kind of goes up and down by the day. It is always very low on Sunday and Saturday. It gets higher on Wednesday and Thursday.

However, I did notice that the 764 deaths yesterday, on Tuesday, was the lowest on a Tuesday since March 23.

Mondays are always very low. We had 366 deaths on Monday. That was also the lowest since March.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we continue to have the progress as we work the number of people who die of this hor-

rible disease down every day, but I have a feeling that a lot of Americans are being misled. So I am just pointing out the way these statistics are going.

CONDEMNING ATTACKS UPON PRESS IN AMERICA

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the free press in America.

I can't believe that I have to say this, but our free press is under attack—physical attack. As Americans have taken to the streets to demand change in the wake of George Floyd's murder, we have seen our First Amendment trampled as hundreds of journalists have been arrested and assaulted by law enforcement officers.

In the past few weeks, members of the press have been detained, gassed, shot at. One reporter lost an eye when she was targeted with rubber bullets, and the most infamous example was the attack upon peaceful protestors and journalists gathered outside the White House.

Mr. Speaker, a free press is one of the most fundamental and cherished values in our country, predating our Constitution. It stems from 1735 when John Peter Zenger was arrested and charged with sedition for criticizing a corrupt British governor of New York.

A free press is one of the most basic ways we hold our government accountable.

On the eve of our Nation's birthday, I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in sponsoring H. Res. 999, which condemns attacks upon the press and the detention of journalists and reaffirms the value of a free press to our democracy.

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USMCA GOES INTO EFFECT TODAY

(Mr. SMUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, a day that the farmers of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District have been looking forward to is finally here. Today marks the day the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, goes into effect.

Over a year ago, I stood here in the Chamber and said one thing I can tell you about the farmers of the 11th District is that they adapt and hold on to hope that better times are yet to come. With the USMCA now in effect, better times are indeed on the way.

I am very proud to represent Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. It is the number one district for agricultural production in Pennsylvania.

The USMCA is a win for farmers, with a number of provisions included that will give the farmers in my district a level playing field and open new